A

LETTER

From on Board the

YORK-FRIGAT

Now with

Admiral Herbert.

Dated from *Cape-Cleare* the Fourth of this inſtant *May*.

Giving a true and large Account of the great Fight between the *Engliſh* and the *French*, at *Bantry-Bay* near *Crouck-Haven* in the Weſt of *Ireland*.

HAving the opportunity, I would not omit giving you a true Narrative of our Fight with the *French*. The 29*th*. of *April*, we being cruiſing at *Kingſale* at nine at night, our Scouts made the ſignal of the Enemy, about 13 Sail; but the night coming on, and we not knowing which way they lay, we kept the Wind all night. On the 30*th*. in the Morning, our Scouts made the Signal, as before; at 8 in the morning we bore up Weſtward, our Scouts chaſing that way, at three in the afternoon one of our Scouts brought a ſmall *Baſtabes* Veſſel into our Fleet, come from *Virginia*, who gave us an account, That he had been with the *French* Fleet the night before of the Cape, conſiſting of 30 Sail ſmall and great. Upon which Advice, we gave chaſe at 6, and we came in ſight of Ten Sail going head of *Meinhead*, but we doubting the main Body had got into *Crouck haven*, we brought to, and ſtood off all the Night. *May* the 1*ſt*. we finding they had not gone in there, we bare away to *Lamard* of the *Meinhead*, where we ſaw ſome of them at Anchor in the *Bantry*; at 7 we found them to be 27 Sail of great Ships, and we but 28; the Wind at *E. N. E.* a moderate Gale. Upon ſight of us, they got under Sail; and inſtead of coming out before the Wind to us, they gave us the trouble to run in a great way to them, which we could not do before 12 at Noon: At which time Captain *Aſbei* leading the Van of our Fleet, came up within Shot; upon whom they fired ſome Guns, but he immediately anſwer'd with what he could, and they all anſwer'd with what they could, being to the Windward, and would not come near. The moſt of them firing at the Arſe; but at laſt moſt of our Ships got up, but could not draw in a line as we intended, by reaſon of the narrowneſs of the place. And thus we continued till ſix at night; we thinking to draw them out to fire, though notwithſtanding they had ninety *per Cent*, the advantage, they tackt, and ſtood into the Bay. I do aſſure, if they had but had Courage, as they had Number and Strength, they might have ſpoil'd moſt of us; but I do proteſt, I never ſaw ſo much Cowardize by Men. I do believe without all hands, put their hands to the Plough, they will hardly be put out of *Ireland*. I ſuppoſe we have not loſt above One hundred Men kill'd in the Fleet; our rigging ſuffer'd the moſt. In fine, the Admiral did what could be expected. I will omit, till pleaſe God we meet; we are now about 14 Leagues from *Cape-Clear* at this time; my Service to all my Friends, &c. From

Yours

York-Frigat, May 4. 1689. C. F E U D.